

RED  
TOP

# KEENE'S CEMENT



BUILDING SUPPLIES, INC.  
SPOKANE, WASH.



UNITED STATES GYPSUM  
COMPANY . . . CHICAGO

# A Plaster of Superior Strength and Hardness

**K**EENE'S CEMENT is a white gypsum plaster or cement named after the man who invented it almost a hundred years ago, R. W. Keene, an Englishman. It has distinctive characteristics which make it unlike other plasters either in working qualities or physical make up.

Red Top Keene's Cement is approximately twice as hard and strong as other types of gypsum wall plaster. It takes its set slowly and may be retempered (remixed with the addition of water) after its set has begun with little or no effect on ultimate hardness. Because it is so different, Keene's Cement does not have the plasticity common to other gypsum plasters and does not change in plasticity or working qualities with age.

Manufacture requires a separate plant with special machinery and processes. Gypsum rock for Keene's Cement is hand selected for size and purity and calcined at very high temperatures to drive off virtually all water of crystallization. The calcined product then goes through special grinding processes and has added to it an agent to assist the setting process, a catalyser, rather than a retarder as is typically added to plaster.

**Used as a Base Coat Plaster:** For base coat work Red Top Keene's Cement is mixed at the job with lime putty, hair or sisal fibre and sand and is applied directly over the lathing base much the same as other gypsum base coat plasters. Base coat work of this character has been somewhat limited; however it produces a wall finish of very high character. Cement plaster, wood fibre plaster and sanded plaster have been used for most base coat work, probably because of their wide distribution and because they provide sufficient hardness and strength for virtually all base coat work.

**As a Plaster Finish:** Red Top Keene's Cement is used extensively as a finish coat over gypsum base coat plasters where unusual hardness and strength are required. Bathrooms, lavatories, kitchens, pantries, hallways and other rooms where walls may receive rough treatment are made more durable with a Keene's Cement finish coat.

**For Colored Plaster Finishes:** Interior colored plaster finishes are usually made with Keene's Cement. Red Top Keene's is mixed with hydrated finishing lime, a graded white aggregate of marble or silica and mineral coloring. The color pigment must be thoroughly and evenly mixed into the dry material before water is added. (Because preparation of colored interior finish plasters is best accomplished by factory methods, manufactured colored finishes are recommended.)

**For Casting:** Red Top Keene's Cement is used for casting ornamental pieces that require unusual hardness. It is mixed with water only and worked into moulds to produce a true uniform surface. Number 1 Moulding Plaster is preferred for most classes of ornamental work because of its working qualities and general suitability for casting in gelatine moulds. Quick setting

properties permit repetition of a piece many times in the same mould.

**Artificial Marble:** Another important use is in the manufacture and setting of scagliola, artificial marble. Red Top Keene's Cement is laid down in slabs with color introduced into the wet material to produce the color and graining of marble. The color effect is obtained in various ways, but the typical method of reproducing marble graining is to lay down on a casting slab or table skeins of silk thread dipped in color. A surface coating of Keene's Cement a scant quarter of an inch thick is then laid down over the color strands and the latter withdrawn in the reverse order from which they are laid down. The piece is completed by later applications of Keene's to the back of the slab for thickness and strength and by polishing and honing the face (the bottom side as the piece is cast).

Scagliola making requires a high order of artistic skill, and of course this brief description gives no adequate idea of the refinements practiced by modern shops. Good scagliola work can be distinguished from marble only by an expert.

From an architectural standpoint scagliola has a definite value because it permits reproduction of rare and inaccessible marbles and the manufacture of large monoliths such as columns too large to be cut from a single block of stone. Scagliola is usually more economical than marble.

**Made From Selected Rock:** Red Top Keene's Cement is made at Southard, Okla., from the same gypsum deposit that produces the finer grades of special gypsum plasters used by pottery manufacturers, dental laboratories and hospitals for surgical dressings. The unusual purity and whiteness of Southard rock make it ideal for the manufacture of Keene's Cement.

**Of Proven Quality:** Red Top Keene's Cement has been used in some of the country's finest structures, both for base coat and finish work. Its quality and accessibility to dealers in mixed car shipments with other U S G products have made it the accepted material in thousands of homes, apartments, hotels, office buildings and other structures throughout the United States. Its hardness and whiteness produce an ideal wall, one that can be troweled to a glass-like smoothness and that can be re-troweled as much as desired to remove any imperfections of workmanship. Mechanics like Red Top Keene's Cement for its uniform quality and the excellent results they are able to get with it.

Keene's Cement is an inside material; it should not be exposed to the weather or run down to the floor line unprotected from mops and cleaning water. To make Keene's Cement washable it should be painted or enameled the same as any other plaster finish. As a wainscoting Red Top Keene's Cement is often scored in blocks four or five inches square to produce a tile pattern.



Hand selected gypsum rock of exceptional purity and whiteness is used in the manufacture of Red Top Keene's Cement.

Seville Apartments, Hyde Park, Tampa, Fla. Red Top Keene's Cement used as a plaster finish.



Lobby of Seville Apartments. This travertine finish was produced with Red Top Keene's Cement.

Milwaukee County Hospital. Red Top Keene's Cement used for finish coat and in part for base coat. Van Ryn & De Gelleke, Milwaukee, Architects. Plastering Contractor, Walish-Dufton Co.; Dealer, Wauwatosa Fuel & Supply Co.



**R E D   T O P   K E E N E ' S   C E M E N T**



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## SPECIFICATIONS FOR USE

Grounds for Metal Lath.....to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch  
Grounds for Wood Lath.....to be  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch  
Grounds for Brick and Clay Tile Walls. to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch

**Lathing:** WOOD LATH—To be a good grade of White Pine, Cypress or Spruce lath free from knots, sap or bark. Must be well nailed. Not less than four 3d common nails to each 4-foot lath, driven well home. (Double nailing should be resorted to on very particular jobs, especially if the lath are not up to standard in quality or condition.) Break joints every fifth lath; do not permit ends of lath to butt or overlap; leave at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space between ends.

KEY OR CLINCH—Lath to be placed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch apart at sides and ends, on walls and ceilings. (Farther apart may mean loss of material—closer together may not allow for swelling of lath, thus causing buckling.)

**Preparation of Mortar:** SAND—Use only clean, sharp sand free from loam and dirt. Screen through a six mesh screen for base coat and through a twelve mesh screen for sand float finish. Avoid quicksand.

LIME PUTTY—First pour water into the mixing box, then add U S G Hydrated Finishing Lime in the proportion of one 50-lb. sack to about 9 gallons of water, distributing the lime uniformly. If the mix is hoed thoroughly after soaking for about an hour, then allowed to stand over night, and hoed again before using, it will improve the spreading qualities. By forcing the lime putty through a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh screen with the back of a shovel the plasticity will be further improved.

MIXING—Add sand to lime putty that has soaked over night, using more water as needed. For the scratch coat add the proper amount of hair as shown below. Dry mix the Keene's Cement in a separate pile with equal parts of sand. Then mix with water and hoe the two piles together adding sand to get correct proportions. Dry mixing Keene's with sand avoids lumps.

### PROPORTIONS AND APPLICATION

**For First Coat on Wood or Metal Lath:** For first coat on wood or metal lath use 400 lb. (4 100-lb. sacks) Red Top Keene's Cement; 600 lb. lime putty (6 50-lb. sacks) U S G Hydrated Lime, and 2000 lb. ( $\frac{3}{4}$  yd.) clean, sharp, well graded sand; 1 bushel clean hair or sisal fibre (more as required).

Apply scratch coat over wall surface, working into joints to form perfect keys. Cross rake or scratch thoroughly and allow time to harden before applying second coat.

**For Second Coat on Wood or Metal Lath or for First Coat on Brick or Clay Tile:** For second coat on wood or metal lath or for first coat on brick or clay tile use 300 lb. (3 100-lb. sacks) Red Top Keene's Cement; 450 lb. lime putty ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  50-lb. bags) U S G Hydrated Lime; 2700 lb. (1 cu. yd.) clean, sharp, well graded sand.

Bring second coat to a true even surface and broom or rake lightly to receive the finish coat.

**Trowel Finish:** 1. Medium: Use 100 lb. Red Top Keene's Cement, and 80 lb. lime putty (40-lb. U S G Finishing Lime).

2. Hard: Bathroom and Kitchen Wainscots. Use 100 lb. Red Top Keene's Cement, and 25 lb. lime putty (1 12-qt. pail).

3. Extra Hard: Use Red Top Keene's Cement and add water only.

Soak hydrated finishing lime to putty overnight. Form a ring of putty on the mixing board, add water, soak the Keene's until thoroughly wetted, then mix well with lime putty in the usual manner.

Apply finishing coat thinly and evenly. Trowel with as little water as possible. Reduce suction of base coat by wetting as required.

**For Sand Float Finish:** For Sand Float finish use 100 lb. Red Top Keene's Cement; 100 lb. lime putty (1 50-lb. sack U S G Finishing Lime) and 400 lb. clean, floating sand of proper size.

Soak hydrated finishing lime to putty overnight. Float to the required surface with cork or carpet float.

**Concrete Surfaces:** Use U S G Bondcrete—the base coat plaster for concrete surfaces.

### GYPSUM LATH and INSULATING LATH

Use United States Gypsum Company's Cement Plaster, Wood Fibre Plaster or Sanded Wall Plaster on Rocklath, Pyrobar Gypsum Tile, Red Top Insulating Lath and other fibrous types of lath.

Note: Red Top Keene's Cement mixes may be retempered as necessary.

Setting takes place slowly and evenly throughout the mix, and retempering improves working qualities.

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